cide where she's to liv be at some distance."

know her. You can't do it."

"You won't get your divorce

through desertion," Hayes scoffed. "I

"I can't do it, eh?" Slade's eyes

held a nasty expression. "That's

what they've been telling me all my

life. Ever since I was a barefooted

little brat running around the mines

they've said to me: 'You can't do

this and you can't do that.' But I

always did it. Let me tell you, young

man, after all I've conquered no wom

"Can't do it, eh?" he repeated, pug-

young jackanapes! I'm as good as

deserted now. The only question is:

Are you going to see Mrs. Slade-put

love her dearly-I-" his voice broke.

turn over every scrap of paper of mine

you have by"-he thought a moment-

by tomorrow night. Then you can

walk the ties to the devil, young man,

As Hayes turned to go, Strickland

got to know it, Slade-the question of

Hayes wheeled around and watched

"There are strangers there who

learned of your-er-domestic difficul-

ties for the first time tonight," Strick-

land continued. "Merritt has thrown

"Why, I thought-" Slade began to

"He's all right," came the senator's

reassuring tones. "It had to come

out. He's got his coat off in there

for you now. He maintains that the

opposition papers are bound to take

it up at any moment. Now, what do

"The truth," thundered Slade. "My

wife is preparing to desert me. It will happen"-Hayes jumped up and

flung himself out of the room-"to-

"I see," and the senator looked

"Irrevocable," declared Slade, posi-

grave. "Is this irrevocable, Slade?"

tively. "As I have told you several

times, senator, it is irrevocable. I'll

Slade had been alone but a

minutes when Katherine returned.

"Well, Mr. Slade," the girl ex-

Slade was in no mood for mere con-

private affairs were being publicly

discussed in the next room. Mentally

he consigned Hayes to the devil, his

wife to the far East of the country,

and registered a yow with himself that

he would have that divorce and the

woman he wanted in spite of every-

He resolved to sound Katherine out

then and there. He turned over in

his mind the most cold-blooded prop-

woman. He was planning to ask her

to marry him, when he should be

free, to decorate his home, preside at

his table, share his wealth and the

honors of the chief executive of the

state. There would be no warmth

in his tone, no love in his heart, no

hunger of his lips for hers, no yearn-

ing of his arms for her yielding figure,

there would be none of the fire of

youth, nothing of the love of little

children, nothing of the spirit that

As Katherine walked across the

room, moving toward him with the

quiet grace and dignity of the well-

trained, well-gowned woman, he had

a fleeting memory of the slight, badly

dressed little woman, whose diffidence

in strange surroundings had always

fretted him. She a governor's wife?

Impossible! He rose and stood be-

side the woman whom he proposed to

like to make a-well, a bargain with

you. That doesn't seem to be quite the word," he hesitated as the girl

averted her eyes. "Yet I think that's

never knew but one woman well-that

"A bargain?" echoed Katherine.
"Yes, a bargain," he repeated.

what we call it."

makes of marriage a sacrament rather

than a thing of convenience,

osition that a man ever made to a

morrow-the next day-any hour."

to see what effect this announcement

and go back where I found you."

hurried into the room.

would have on Slade.

the bombshell."

you advise?"

stand by that."

our way."

the waiting politicians,

body and everything.

protest.

"Mrs, Slade has been my best

"All right, That settles it. You

her aboard a train east or not?"

friend," Hayes answered quietly.

an is going to stop me!

th YEAR

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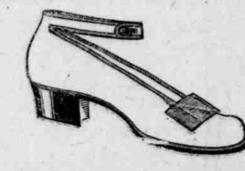
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CHAPTER VI.

"Mrs. Slade won't sign over the cottage," Hayes began abruptly. "I can't do anything more."

"She must." Slade uttered the words through set teeth. "She can't live there. Robert, you are the only person who knows us both thoroughly. want you to bring this matter to a finish quietly and kindly and-now." "Why don't you see her and have it out with her?" Hayes suggested.

"We had it out the night I left the house and told her not to wait up for me," Slade reminded him. "I never quarrel with anyone more than once." ute. "You're with me, aren't you?" as if an idea had just occurred to

"I'm awfully sorry for Mrs. Slade," Hayes began, when Slade interrupted, "Look here, Hayes-I want a divorce," and he seated himself squarely in front of the astonished Hayes.

"A divorce?" "That's what I want," and his lips shut grimly.

"But, my God!" Hayes was amazed. You didn't want it in the first place.



Think I'd Like to Make a Bargain With You."

All you wanted was to live your own life. Do you expect me to help you get rid of Mrs. Slade?" "Don't go crazy," Slade advised, not

suggestion of feeling evident in his voice or manner. "If you do you are due for a surrise. I can't go sticking a knife into

that woman's heart. I won't." "You're a h-l of a lawyer!" Slade's anger was rising.

"I'm not that sort of a lawyer," Hayes rose as if to dismiss the sub-"Whatever sort of a lawyer you are

made you, Hayes."

"I know you did," returned Hayes, bitterly. "You've told me that before and this is what comes of letting a man make you!"

"You bet, rank ingratitude," hotly. Hayes leaned forward, his arms on his knees and looked Slade square in

"I honestly think you're drunk with all this power and prosperity. That little woman was the apple of your eye. I always said to myself: "There's one man who does stick to his wife!" I didn't believe wild horses could drag you away from home-"

"One minute!" interrupted Slade. 'All that has nothing to do with you. Neither you nor anyone living can interfere with me now. Have you stopped to figure out, and I say it with all kindness and with all respect, what sort of a governor's lady Mrs. Slade

would make, feeling as she does?" "Well, what sort of a governor would you make if you were divorced?" Hayes questioned, mockingly. "Those men in there," and he jerked his thumb toward the smok-ing-room door; "will they stand for

"But you don't own public opinion," thundered Hayes, banging his fist down on the table, scattering the copies of the senator's speech in all

"Why don't I?" Slade questioned with an arrogant smile disfiguring his mouth. "I'm going to buy half of Merritt's paper tonight. I guess that will be public opinion enough for ma. More than that, I'll stand as a man whose wife has deserted him. That's how it will end. Mrs. Slade will delike Strickland's, When I have another house—that'll be what I'll want, I'll want my friends, my acquaintances, to come there. I want-well-head-



naciously. "You watch me do it! You You Are Going to Rob a Poor Little Woman!"

> the head of my house that I can be proud of-like Strickland." Katherine was not surprised. She had anticipated some such move as this on his part, but now that she was face to face with the unvarnished suggestion, she found herself more shocked than she would have be-

> quarters. And I want a woman at

lieved. "In a couple of months I'll stand free," he went on. "Perhaps sooner. I don't expect any woman's going to "Merritt has just introduced a very love me-she isn't. Got to do that unexpected subject in the smoking- when you're young. But I'd do all I erything-money and-the power that goes with it. I want to say right here that I wouldn't speak if I thought young Hayes had a chance. I saw he didn't."

At the mention of Hayes' name

Katherine had an instant's vision of Bob's tender face-his eyes burning with love looking into hers-of his youth-his strength-his fine honor, pitifully, for the shelter of his arms In another moment the old recur rent vision of life in the old town dull, cheap, uninteresting, and the lure of what Slade was offering, the money, the clothes, the servants, the power to reign supreme, swept her off her feet. The thought of divorce did not terrify her. Mrs. Slade, whom she had never seen, was only a name As Slade watched her standing straight and white, he feared he had

been too brutally blunt. "You needn't think it over now," he hastened to add. "Perhaps you will later, and perhaps you won't. That's for you to decide. I guess I've said all I can say."

But Katherine was not a woman to Convinced that Slade knew his own mind in this matter as well as he had its unpleasant features. She knew the reputation for knowing it in all that she couldn't have all the things other matters, Strickland returned to she wanted without some suffering, some pain. Her father's world had taught her that love was a thing of small consideration where marriage was concerned, unless it went with claimed, "things seem to be coming the advancement of one's ambitions. Love was not of the world. Place, power, wealth-these were of the world and this man offered them to versation. He was annoyed at Hayes' attitude, and incensed because his

"This isn't a matter of sentiment," she agreed with him calmly. "I'll be perfectly frank with you. I don't say won't think it over. I know just what you want of a woman. When you can go to my father free there won't be any barrier in the way."

She offered her hand as if to bind the bargain. He held it for a brief instant and with a hurried "thank you" left the room.

CHAPTER VII.

Left alone, Katherine drew a long breath. Her face was set and her eyes were harder than it is good for a woman's eyes to be. She pictured to herself the future for which she had just bargained. There would be wealth-no more pinching struggle with masked poverty, her father at ease, his political debts all paid. There would be no more pretense that her art was for love of it and not for money-she would be free to follow her desires in this as in all else There would be honor and power as wife of the state's chief executiveand that was but a step to further honors that she would achieve at Slade's side-with Slade-always with

As she stood thus the horror of what she had agreed to do swept over her, and she sank moaning and shivering responsible to the service of the se see of you the more I think I-I'd ing, "Why, Katherine, what's the

(Continued on Page 2, Section 2)

Wanted Wool.

was Mrs. Slade. She's a good woman
—a mighty good woman, but we can't
—I never had a home—not a home es for poultry. He has been in the business 18 years and knows how to treat

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Dean amy: I ran to a neighbors through the and her heart cried out desperately, back way the other day. My! It was shocking to see the old, battered ice-box she had. If I didn't have anything else, I'd have a new up-to-date ice box; for a sanitary, clean ice-box means a healthy family. Would you use a rusty ice-box if you were able to buy a new one? Not for me. Baby John's milk must be properly kept. an unsanitary ice-box endangers the health of the whole family. Good bye, Lou

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